

REMARKS

The Office mailed on December 19, 2006 a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) ("Notice") in response to Applicant's electronic filing on December 7, 2006 of an Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement ("Restriction Requirement Response"). A copy of the Restriction Requirement Response as electronically filed and the Office's Electronic Acknowledgment Receipt are attached as Exhibit A and Exhibit B, respectively.

The Notice alleges that the Restriction Requirement Response was "not signed in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4." 37 C.F.R. §1.4(d)(3) states in relevant part:

Correspondence . . . being filed via the Office Electronic Filing System for a patent application or patent may be signed electronically. The electronic signature must consist only of letters of the English alphabet, or Arabic numerals, or both, with appropriate spaces and commas, periods, apostrophes, or hyphens for punctuation. The person signing the correspondence must personally insert the electronic signature with a first single forward slash mark before, and a second single forward slash mark after, the electronic signature (*e.g.*, /Dr. James T. Jones, Jr./).

As shown on page 6 of the Restriction Requirement Response, Applicant's representative, Debra A. Gordon, electronically signed the document as follows: /Debra A. Gordon/. This electronic signature is in conformance with 37 C.F.R §1.4(d)(3). Accordingly, the Restriction Requirement Response complies with the signature requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.4.

As discussed above, the allegation in the Notice that the Restriction Requirement Response was not properly signed is incorrect. Applicants request that the Restriction Requirement Response be found in conformance with all applicable rules and be forwarded to the examiner for substantive examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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EXHIBIT A

**Amendment and Response to Restriction Requirement
Filed Via EFS on December 7, 2006**

[see attached six (6) pages]